

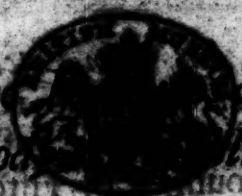
George Lyttelton
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 I have been Observing in the Town

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POSTERITY, 1675.

(Anno Aetatis Quadragesimo Secundo)

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I KNOW the Booksellers Shops
 abound with numerous Volumes
 upon all Subjects; Therefore it's
 vain in any Body in this Age to
 attempt by his Writings to Treat the
 World with Novels; especially for a
 Man of my Talent who am but a very
 ordinary Grammarian; and the Cir-
 cumstances of my perturbed Fortune
 never allow'd me Time to read many
 Authors (tho' perhaps those I have run
 over have been of the very best) so

that

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that little Reason I have been Master of
hath been Acquired chiefly by Conver-
sation and Observation in the Transact-
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by my most Indulgent Mother (but at
my own Request) design'd before I was
Fifteen Years old : Nevertheless I think
it cannot be unacceptable to my Poste-
rity, That I leave them this short Ac-
count of my self.

My Father, Sir *John Lyttcott*, Dying
at *Wolsey* in *Septemb* 1641: before
I was quite Eight Years of Age, and
leaving me youngest of Fifteen or Six-
teen Children Born tho' of but Nine
then Living.

I was by Mother (who was Daughter
to Sir *Nicholas Overbury* and Sister to
Sir *Thomas Overbury* who was Poysoned
in the *Tower*) Maintained at a Gram-
mar-School till I was near Fifteen Years
1650. Old, and then Apprenticed to a Mer-
chant: who in less than Two Years
sent me on a Man of War to the English
Colonies in *America*. Aboard which Ship
I was a little Officer, and in that Voy-
age

age I got some Knowledge in the Art of Navigation as well as in the practical part of a Sailer.

At my return for *England* my Master sent me to be one of his Factors at *Lisbon*, from whence after a Year or Two I removed my self for *Italy*, calling in at some of the Ports of *Spain* in my way to *Genoa*, and from thence to *Leghorn*, in the Dukedom of *Tuscany*, where I Liv'd some Years managing a great deal of Business by Commission from Merchants of several Countries; wherein I took much pains but not without much satisfaction, my Labour being rewarded with Benefit; afterwards as my Affairs permitted me I took a View of *Rome*, and of most of the best Cities in *Italy*.

1654.

Then we had the prospect of the Restoration of King *Charles II.* so I went for *Lombardy*, and thence for the *Valtolines* Countrey, and *Switzerland*; and so came for *England* through *Germany*, some part of *Flanders* and *Holland* in June 1660. being in the Twenty Seventh Year of my Age;

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and about Sixteen Months afterwards I Married my only Wife, *Sarah*, the only Daughter of Mr. *Richard Culling* of *Exon*, with whom I had a fair Fortune not less than Seven Thousand Pounds; and we might have promis'd ourselves all the happiness imaginable for young People that could contain themselves within the bounds of Moderation; but it pleas'd *GOD* to convince us of the uncertainty of Worldly Riches by permitting me to be deluded by some Persons who indeed had been my Beneficial Friends; but their Fortunes declining they endeavour'd to prop themselves up by the Assistance of my Credit and Estate; and at last (their Condition being much worse than they would own to me) they fall'd being Indebted at least Eleven or Twelve Thousand Pounds to me here and to my Agent who managed my Concerns at *Legorn*. Then I knew I was in a great Measure ruined. This Misfortune made a great Impression in my Mind as well as on my Estate; however it pleas'd *GOD* to continue to me the Friendship of all those who had formerly been my Employers

ployers and Acquaintance, so that I was not destitute of Means to repair my Losses; but the Fondness of my Dear Wife would not permit her to dispence with my Absence out of *England*; so as to settle my self abroad again, only Anno 1663. I took Post for *Dover* thence passing into *France* I rid from *Paris* to *Madrid* so to *Sevil* and *Cadix*, where I Embarked on a *Spanish Ship* for *Berbadors* to take on Board about Seven Hundred *Blacks* for the Kingdom of *Mexico* in the *West-Indies*; and Dreturnd for *London* in about Fourteen Months; but not without Encountering more Dangers and undergoing more Hardship than in all the former part of my Life.

* However, my Adventure was not without some Profit as well as a great deal of Peril and new Inconveniencies; if they did not extinguish the memory of the old ones; at least they taught me to wear them with more Patience.

After my Return Home I Retir'd to a Country-Life at *Stratford* under *Old*

Hurricane and want of Food and Water: Our Ship struck and sat fast upon the Shoals on the South-side of *Cuba*, till we lightened her, and got off.

The French vessel before it came to this.

Sarum; The Truth is I was forced to it for want of a good Tenant to my Estate there, where I continued Five or Six Years, viz. to the Year 1671. when I obtained the Charge of Comptant-General of the Accompts of His Majesties Customs, wherein I have not without some Care and Pains Officiated above Four Years.

Now for as much the Hour of Death is uncertain, and I having Six Children who are all so young, That should I be suddainly taken from them, the Eldest of them would hardly remember their Unfortunate Father: I therefore leave these Remains of my self without looking into the Antiquity of my Family, tho' One of the Five Oldest in *Oxfordshire*, and once possess'd of a very large Estate, which I cannot mention without Accusing my Ancestors of Imprudence for having wasted it.

* The Estate was wasted before it came to my Father.

* Therefore I think it more decent to leave their Urns undisturb'd, and to offer my Children this Miscellany of Advertisements, Observations

and

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and Maxims writ as they intrude
themselves into my Thoughts when I
got out of my Office; which perhaps
may be more acceptable to them, and
make more Impression in their Minds,
than better digested Matter from a
Strangers hand.

And in the first place, He that desires
to be happy in this World must so or-
der all his Actions that he may always
lay himself down to Repose with a
quiet Conscience, and awake with a
Tranquil Mind: To which no Man can
arrive without fearing G O D.

*The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning
of Wisdom* said Solomon, who was the
Wiseſt of Men; and his Proverbs are
the Originals of all Honest Policy, as
well as of the beſt Oeconomy, and con-
ſequently cannot be too often read over.

Of all the Religions that I have ever
ſeen or heard, The Chriſtian ſeems to
me to be the only Religion fit to be em-
braced: And after the peruſal of many
Books of ſeveral Writers (upon their

various Opinions wherein they alternately take the liberty to stile one another Hereticks, Sectaries and Scismatics) I do adhere to the Church of *England*, as now Establisht, as being the most pure from *Idolatry*, and most agreeable with Holy Writ and Reason.

And therefore I recommend it to those that come after me; next to your Duty to GOD Almighty that to your Parents is to take place: Whoever doth not Dutifully obey, respect and love their Parents, cannot reasonably expect their Children should obey or respect them.

In the next place bear good will to all Men, that is, at least so far as not to injure any Man willfully, especially by speaking ill of them behind their backs, and upon meer report; such Discourses being often detected, and then they reflect severely upon the Author; wherefore the most prudent way is not to meddle with other Men, or their Matters, especially so as to disparage them.

By

By all means subdue Passion (it being altogether disagreeable with Prudence, and consequently with Business) because it blinds the Reason, and rises a Man's Notions.

Idleness is the Root of most Evils, and the Subversion of many Families, therefore be sure to entertain your selves with some honest Employment or other.

And truly as Things offer themselves to my Sense at present, I see no fairer way to raise an Estate (and to avoid Debauchery) than to be bred under a discreet Factor, that hath good Employment abroad, either in *Spain, Portugal, Italy or Turkey*, &c. where there is a probability of the Apprentices succeeding his Master in his Commissions, or under a Lawyer so that a Man have an Estate to purchase a Counsellour's Place at *Guild-Hall*.

Now that you may be Men of Value and Reputation in the World, I shall offer you a few Advertisements to be regarded in your Youth.

Be

Be very cautious of the Company you keep; for he that associates with those who are lewd and vicious, becomes hardened against virtuous Thoughts and good Advice.

Avoid Sluggishness; a little Sleep in due season will suffice a Man and a great deal doth but stupifie him, robs him of his very best Time, rendering him less fit for Business.

Lying a Bed after a Man is awake, exposes him to wanton Thoughts and a lazy habit.

Avoid Unchastity and Intemperance which do not only take a young Man's Mind from his Business but rot and ruin his Body, waste and consume his Stock, which else (by GOD's Blessing and his own diligence might in Time grow to a fair Fortune) but draw upon him the Contempt and Disdain of all industrious, virtuous, Men that know him, to the utter loss of his Reputation.

As regards in your Youth.

A wife Man would avoid idle Swearing and Cursing (if they were not grievous Sins against the Great Creator) meerly because they are Vices usually incident to shallow-pated Fellows, that supply their want of Sense with new Coin'd Oaths or some of the biggest old ones.

And in my Opinion Lying comes little behind the other, nay perhaps 'tis worse, because those who addict themselves thereto seldom boggle at an Oath or Two to make their Lies be credited; so they cannot be fit for Humane Society because Lying lets loose to any Villany, always hoping to get off with a Lie.

Decency in Apparel is commendable, but curiosity and niceness in Dressing is Foppish: I remember the wise *Saavedra* a *Spaniard* in his *Politick Impresses* says, *That Cloaths are made for Men but Fops are made for their Cloaths*: This sort of Niceness being generally attended with the most detestable Vice of Pride.

Tho

The fair Writing be not an infallible sign of Ingenuity, yet in my Opinion not to write a good legible hand bespeaks a Man to be very careless if not indiscreet; It being certain, That any Man may write a good fair hand if he accustoms himself thereto; and oftentimes good Writing is a Recommendation to a good Livelihood: Wherefore I cannot but esteem it Imprudence, in any young Man, to neglect an Art that merely by custom may be attain'd; and possibly at one Time or other may be more profitable to him than many other Qualifications that are not acquir'd without a great deal more pains.

And as well as Writing, Arithmetick is absolutely necessary for Men that are to push their Fortunes in the World; also to understand the stating and keeping Accompts, of which no Man can be a compleat Master but by great Practice in Business.

Whatever your Stock is, let your Trade be bounded by it; and whatever your Estate is, let your way of Living be

be (within it: For he that over-lives his Revenue, and he that wants Money to carry on his Trade are equally unhappy.

Vain, Glorious, Self-Commendation renders a Man very weak if not very ridiculous; not but that there are some Cases wherein a Man ought to make the best of himself, but there can be but few particular Cases, which a Man must handle modestly (without Pretixity or Affectation) and not repeat them too often.

Keep as few Servants as you can, and let those be good tho' you give greater Wages.

Be frugal in your Expences, but not stingy: in your Gifts to Servants and poor People.

Frequent Drunkenness is a very imprudent, pernicious, Evil; It consumes a Man's Estate, spends his Time and destroys his Body; makes him ridiculous in his own Family (and besides, rendring

rendring him uncapable of Business) it renders him unsafe for Conversation; for he that is drunk knows not what he says or swears.

Never boast of your own Dexterity or Agility of Body, because a Man is naturally apt to exceed in that sort of Discourse even to the rendring himself conceited or impertinent; to the begetting Wagers which often produces Quarrels (or at least puts a Man upon straining himself beyond what is convenient) and perhaps comes off ridiculous at last.

Of all Trades never chose a Land-Soldiers, because they whose Idleness have inclin'd them to a lazy Livelihood (wherein they must expose their Lives for 6 *d.* or 8 *d.* per Day) can hardly be justified to be Rational Creatures: And all Soldiery (except in Defence of a Man's own Countrey) is but a Species of Barbarism.

Marriage is an Holy Institution, but it too often proves a very uneasy Mornings Work; and without a lucky Concurrence

rence of a great many Circumstances
it can hardly be so happy as People
generally fancie.

Men of vast Fortunes may please
themselves with the Person or Face of
a Wife, but Men of middle Degree
must consider the suitableness of Cir-
cumstances and the great Charge of a
Family which is contracted by Wed-
lock; therefore it's but requisite, that
the Woman brings a good Fortune with
her, that she be virtuous and good
humour'd (of a Family of good Re-
pute) without so much Kindred as may
beget a chrageable Acquaintance.

No Portion is an Equivalent for an
ill Temper; nor ought any Man (in
common Prudence) to Marry a Wife
so ill favour'd that he shall be ashamed
of her, nor so much older than himself
that she shall look like his Govourness.

There may be a great deal said for a
Man's Marrying once, but he that hath
Children (especially a Son by a former
Wife and past Forty Years of Age)

Marries

Marries again, does in my Opinion run
a great deal of hazard of being censured
for a Fool or a Knave.

Avoid Contracts with Princes and
Courtiers (either at Home or Abroad)
if you have any Estate of your own;
for Beggars are fittest to deal with the
Court; and according to my observa-
tion, for one that came well off more
than Forty have miscarried.

If a Merchant chanceth to gain by
the Crown the Prince at one Time or
other will get into his Debt; and then
he may have leisure to inform himself,
That Princes can break their Faith as
well as private Men; and tho' they
may give good fair Words at first, yet
after a little while they will abhor the
Face of their Creditors.

Avoid Law-Suits by any means, and
in order thereto, avoid dealing with
litigious Men; avoid uncertain Con-
tracts which always admits of Disputes
(and those Disputes commonly grows
into Law-Suits) which disturb the
Tranquility

Tranquility of a Man's Mind, waste his Time and consume his Estate.

He that is much concerned in Law oftentimes lives reputed a Knave, and usually dies a Beggar.

Few Places at Court are really profitable (except those that of course have the Princes Ear, or those that dispense the Money) which I presume occasion'd the *Italian Proverb, He that lives at Court dies in the Hospital.*

But Offices in the Revenue are worth obtaining ; and if a Man behave himself honestly and diligently therein, possibly it may be as good as any other Estate for Life ; but those that extort Fees (or delaies Men out of design to pick their Pockets) deserve not only to be dismiss'd, but expos'd upon the Pillory, as well as those that cheat the King or connive at his being defrauded in their Offices.

What I have hitherto said, pointing most to the Masculine Gender, perhaps

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my Daughters may expect I should say something to them also; from which in my own Opinion I might be very well excus'd, they having the lively Example of their most Virtuous Mother to imitate; whom I hope the Almighty God will continue to them 'till they shall all be grown up.

Nevertheless, lest she should be taken away in their Infancie, they shall have my Advice in a very few Lines, viz.

Be truly Religious in your Closets as well as at Church, where you ought to behave your selves (Devoutely and decently) without much busling and expressing the Responsals too loud.

Fall out with no Body about their Opinion in Religion.

Avoid Pride and Affectation.

Avoid an over Airy Behaviour.

Wantonness

Wantonness makes room for Censure,
and gives opportunity to Temptation.

It's but little worse to be a Whore
than to give occasion to be thought so.

Be affable and curteous with modesty.

Be carefull in the choise of Companions
for your constant Converse.

Keep your selves employ'd about some
ingenious Housewifery, not excluding
Dancing and Singing also if you have
Voices adapted to it.

What Time you spend in Reading, let
it be in Books of sound Divinity (or
good Morality) and not in idle Roman-
ces, and Stories of Witches and Wizards
and the *Roman Catholick* Legends, which
seems to be Nets contriv'd by the Devil
to catch Fools of all Sects.

When you come to think of Mar-
riage (and that Husbands are proposed
to you) relie upon the Judgment of
your Mother, or some other prudent
Friend, rather than upon your own in
your choice.

And rather chose a good, prudent, industrious, plain Man (that knows how to get an Estate) than a vain Fop that may have a little left him by his Friends and only knows how to spend it.

When you are Married remember you are no more your own Mistress, but that you have put your self under a Governour to whose Humours you must endeavour to bend your self with all diligence imaginable, Wedlock being a Knot that can never be untied but by Death; and if your Humour be not agreeable with your Husbands, you must expect to live miserably.

Finally, I tell you all my Sons and Daughters (and those that shall be descended from you, to whose view These shall come) That you will never answer it to GOD nor Nature if they have not some weight with you, because they are the kind Legacy of your most kind Father.

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G. Lytcott.

